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And we will further of our special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, do grant to the said sovereign, free burgesses and commonalty of the borough of Belfast, that from henceforth it shall and may be lawful for all and singular, the said freemen of the borough aforesaid, and their successors to erect and appoint in the franchises of the said borough, one wharf or quay, in any convenient place, on the side of the river of Belfast aforesaid: and also that it shall and may be lawful for all and singular merchants, as well inhabitants as foreigners, and all other, our liege subjects whatsoever with ships and boats to come up and apply to said wharf or quay, and there to discharge and unload, and from thence also to export and convey away, all and all kinds of merchandize or other things, without the hinderance of us, our heirs or successors, or of any of the officers of our customs or searchers, or any or either of our officers of us, our heirs or successors being resident in our port of C. Fergus; provided always that the said merchants and other our liege subjects, pay or cause to be payed to us, our heirs and successors, all and singular our customs as well great as small, and subsidies of poundage and other impositions due and payable in our said port of C. Fergus, and in the bays and creeks of the same, for all and singular merchandizes imported and exported as aforesaid.

And further, of our more abundant special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, we do grant to the said sovereign, free busgesses and commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors for ever, that these our letters patent, and every article and clause therein contained, or the inrollment thereof, shall be construed, interpreted, and adjudged for the greatest advantage, benefit, and favour of the aforesaid sovereign, free burgesses and commonalty of the borough aforesaid, and their successors towards and against us, our heirs, and successors, as well in all our courts, as else where within our said kingdom of Ireland, as elsewhere wheresoever, without any confirmation, licence, or toleration hereafter to be procured or obtained, notwithstanding that our writ of *ad quod damnum* did not issue to enquire of the premises, before the perfection of these our Letters Patent, and notwithstanding any defect or other matter, cause, or thing to the contrary, notwithstanding so that, &c. We will also, &c. and without any fine to be paid unto our Hanaper, &c.

In Witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent; witness our aforesaid Deputy General, of our said kingdom of Ireland, at Dublin, the 27th day of April, in the year of our Reign of England, France and Ireland the 11th, and of Scotland the 46th.

By vertue of the King's Letter sent from England under his proper hand and seal.

A list of the Sovereigns and Burgesses of Belfast, from the date of this Charter till the year 1761. *will be given in our next.*

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON PUBLIC BAKERIES,

I HAVE lately seen in the Newspapers some remarks on a Public Bakery, and in the same paper sections from an act of parliament relative to the baking trade. This circumstance revived ideas, which I have often formerly had on these subjects, and which I am inclined to submit to the public through this miscellany.

One clause of the act requires the baker to take an oath of office, among other things to use only the prescribed materials in his bread. At one period of Irish legislation an oath was required almost on every occasion. Bakers, Brewers, Linendrapers must swear. The latter indeed by a resolute stand at Armagh, in 1782, resisted, and refused to entangle themselves with an ensnaring and ignominious oath of office. They said, "let our properties be answerable for any mistakes we may happen to commit, but let us keep our consciences free." Those in other trades having less powers of resistance were forced to comply. It has always appeared to me a bad system of legislation to recur to perplexing oaths of office.

by which an honest man may be hampered in the proper exercise of his business, while the knave evades or boldly breaks through the net, with which it is proposed to secure him. I sincerely hope no efforts will be made to revive this oath of office, which very properly has almost become obsolete, though the enaction of the law is of recent date, I believe it is not passed above twenty years ago.

Public bakeries judiciously and conscientiously managed so as to hold an even balance between the interests of the public, and the fair profits of the trader, afford an excellent substitute for legislative or magisterial interference. Thus administered, they act on the fair principle of commercial rivalship. That they may not bear too hard on the private baker, or encroach on his reasonable profits, for all trades should be allowed to live, the subscribers should have a moderate profit on their deposites. If a public institution of this sort make a moderate dividend the private tradesman must be still better circumstanced as he has many advantages in the economy of management over a public institution; and to the enjoyment of these advantages the private baker is justly entitled. No attempts should be made to run him down, for this might lead to a most injurious and unjust monopoly on the part of the subscribers to a public bakery.

The leading aim of the managers of such an institution should be scrupulously to adjust the interests of the consumers and the bakers of bread, to prevent the former from being imposed upon by too small a loaf, or to bear too hard on the latter, so as not to allow him a full recompense for his toil and risque.

If public bakeries were generally established, and these principles strictly adhered to by an efficient committee of active and impartial men, the assize of bread would be better regulated than by oaths, or the remitting activity of public officers. The equitable principle of commerce, by customers going to the shop whether public or private at which they are best served, answers every purpose, as the bublic bakery always keeps up a fair competition, while care is taken that the trade should not degenerate into a monopoly on either sides. I see only one objection to public bakeries, the difficulty of getting a suitable committee who will attend to their functions in the present lack of public spirit.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON SOME FASHIONABLE ERRORS IN SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

IT has been asserted that some foreign nations have no term in their language equivalent to our word, comfort. Probably national partiality has issued this assertion, which like many other vague and confident maxims has been implicitly adopted without examination, through the prejudice of national vanity. Be this, however, as it may, I am confident, that there is no such word, as comfort in the vocabulary of the votaries of fashion, who have no other standard of convenience than the prevailing mode of the day, but who with wonderful facility discover that those things which were convenient, and had innumerable advantages yesterday, have lost to day all these advantages not from any alteration intrinsically in the things themselves, but because fashion in the omnipotence of her sway, has changed her unstable and fluctuating decrees. But it is not my intention at present to attack the voluminous and unsettled code of fashion, at full length or in bulk, such an attempt would bewilder myself and my readers: I shall select only one of her laws, and endeavour to show how far the unaffected hospitality of former times has been ill exchanged for the ostentatious entertainments of the present day.

In good old fashioned times, a friend was received without ceremony, and invited to partake of the fare that was going, so as to suit his convenience, and a hearty welcome supplied the place of ostentation. If a friend from a distance called in, he was heartily welcomed and his accommodation, not the vanity of the entertainer to display the parade of a costly entertainment set out